



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
John T. Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA Snapper Grouper Committee

Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March 2020 Committee minutes

1. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO
 - Regulatory Amendment 29 (Best Fishing Practices & Powerheads) – sent to NMFS on 1/13/2020
 - Regulatory Amendment 33 (Red Snapper Seasons) – sent to NMFS on 1/24/20
 - Abbreviated Framework 3 (Blueline Tilefish) – sent to NMFS on 2/12/20
2. COVID-19 Impacts and Potential Response (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer
 - b. Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley
3. Greater Amberjack Assessment (SEDAR 59; *Attachment 2*)
 - a. Science Center Report – Kevin Craig, SEFSC
 - b. SSC Report – Genny Nesslage
 - c. Committee Action: Determine Acceptable Biological Catch and management response – Jessica McCawley
4. Special Management Zones in North Carolina and South Carolina: Regulatory Amendment 34 (*Attachments 3a-3c*)
 - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer
 - b. Committee Action: Review and consider recommending for formal review.
5. Red Porgy Stock Assessment (SEDAR 60; *Attachment 4*)
 - a. Science Center Report – Nikolai Klibansky, SEFSC
 - b. SSC Report – Genny Nesslage
 - c. Action: Determine Acceptable Biological Catch and management response – Jessica McCawley

Other Business (*Attachments 5a and 5b*) – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn

Committee Members

Jessica McCawley, Chair
Mel Bell, Vice-chair
Anna Beckwith
Chester Brewer
Kyle Christiansen
Chris Conklin
Roy Crabtree
Tim Griner
Carolyn Belcher
LCDR Jeremy Montes
Steve Poland
Art Sapp
David Whitaker
Spud Woodward
Mid-Atlantic Liaisons: Tony DiLernia, Dewey Hemilright

Attachments:

Attachment 1: COVID-19 Impacts – Summary of Stakeholder Feedback (*In Late Materials*)
Attachment 2: Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment Presentation
Attachment 3a: Regulatory Amendment 34 Decision Document
Attachment 3b: Draft Regulatory Amendment 34
Attachment 3c: Regulatory Amendment 34 Codified Text
Attachment 4: Red Porgy Stock Assessment Presentation
Attachment 5a: EFP Proposal
Attachment 5b: EFP Presentation

Staff Lead: Myra Brouwer (myra.brouwer@safmc.net)
Staff Support AM: Roger Pugliese (roger.pugliese@safmc.net)
Staff Support PM: Brian Chevront (brian.chevront@safmc.net)
Technical Support AM: Kelly Klasnick (kelly.klasnick@safmc.net)
Technical Support PM: Suzanna Thomas (suzanna.thomas@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Snapper Grouper Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the March 2020 meeting and the agenda for the June 2020 Committee meeting.

1. Status of Amendments under Formal Review

Description: NMFS SERO staff will update the Committee on the status of amendments under review or recently submitted.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. COVID-19 Impacts and Potential Response (*Attachment 1*)

Description: On March 20, Council staff requested that advisory panel members complete an online form designed to collect information on impacts from the pandemic on stakeholders and their communities. Council staff will present a summary of the feedback received to date. Committee members will engage in preliminary discussion of potential changes to current management measures that could be implemented temporarily to alleviate some of the socioeconomic impacts that the pandemic-induced economic shutdown has caused. Discussion on this topic will continue during the Mackerel Cobia Committee and Full Council sessions to determine the Council's response.

Required Committee Action: provide guidance to staff.

3. Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment (SEDAR 59; *Attachment 2*)

Description: The SEDAR 59 assessment was conducted following a Standard approach and addressed the stock of Greater Amberjack in the South Atlantic. The assessment took place over a series of webinars from March 2018 to January 2020. To allow for incorporation of the fully calibrated MRIP data and the subsequent SSC workshop addressing the MRIP numbers, the original schedule was extended, and the terminal year was advanced to 2017. Keven Craig, SEFSC, will present the assessment's results to the Committee. The SSC reviewed the assessment during their Spring 2020 meeting and Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, will deliver the SSC's recommendations, including the ABC.

Required Committee Action: Consider the SSC's recommendations and determine the ABC for Greater Amberjack and any appropriate management measures. Provide guidance to staff on amendment development.

4. Regulatory Amendment 34 (Special management zones off North and South Carolina; *Attachments 3a-3c*)

Description: Council staff will review public hearing comments obtained in spring 2020 and provide an overview of the expected effects of proposed actions.

Status of Amendment: Scheduled for final approval in June 2020.

Required Committee Action: Modify as necessary, provide guidance on rationale, and consider recommending for formal review.

5. Red Porgy Stock Assessment (SEDAR 60; Attachment 4)

Description: The SEDAR 60 assessment was conducted following a Standard approach and addressed the stock of Red Porgy in the South Atlantic. The assessment took place over a combination of an in-person workshop in December 2019 and a series of webinars from June 2018 to February 2020. To allow for incorporation of the fully calibrated MRIP data and the subsequent SSC MRIP workshop, the original schedule was extended. Nikolai Klibansky, SEFSC, will present the assessment's results to the Committee. The SSC reviewed the assessment during their Spring 2020 meeting and Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair, will deliver the SSC's recommendations, including the ABC.

Required Committee Action: Consider the SSC's recommendations and determine the ABC for Red Porgy and any appropriate management measures. Provide guidance to staff on amendment development.

Other Business (Attachments 5a and 5b)

An Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) request was submitted to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO). The applicant (Georgia Sea Grant) seeks to test the retrieval of rope-less gear with black sea bass pots using Acoustic Subsea Buoy Retrieval System. A presentation will be delivered during Snapper Grouper Committee to allow the public to comment on the request during the scheduled comment period on Wednesday, June 10. The Council will further discuss the request during the Council session on Thursday, June 11 and provide their recommendation to SERO at that time.